

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 2-7, 9-15 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims (Official Action at page 3).

By the above amendments, claim 2 has been canceled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into each of claims 1 and 16 for clarification purposes. Claims 3, 7, 9, 11, 15 and 17 have been amended to be in independent form. Claims 7 and 15 have also been amended for readability purposes by correcting typographical errors of the words “from” and “bromine”.

In the only rejection, claims 1, 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document No. 01-170674 (*JP '674*). The rejection with respect to claims 1 and 16 has been obviated by the above amendments, wherein each of claims 1 and 16 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. As discussed above, the Patent Office has indicated that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the present rejection as applied to claims 1 and 16 is respectfully requested.

According to one aspect of the present invention as defined by claim 8, a method of manufacturing an ink-jet ink is provided. The method comprises dissolving an oil-soluble dye in a high boiling point organic solvent which has a boiling point of 150°C or more and has a specific inductive capacity at 25°C of 3 to 12, and wherein a high-pressure emulsifying and dispersing device emulsifies and disperses said oil-soluble dye at a pressure of 50 MPa or more.

JP '674 does not disclose each feature recited in claim 8, and as such fails to constitute an anticipation of such claim. For example, *JP '674* does not disclose a method of manufacturing an ink-jet ink, wherein a high-pressure emulsifying and dispersing device emulsifies and disperses an oil-soluble dye at a pressure of 50 MPa or more. While *JP '674* appears to disclose using a "homomixer" to emulsify a mixture, there is no disclosure of a high-pressure emulsifying and dispersing device that emulsifies and disperses an oil-soluble dye at a pressure of 50 MPa or more, as recited in claim 8.

For at least the above reasons, it is apparent that *JP '674* does not constitute an anticipation of claim 8. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the Patent Office on December 17, 2003, as well as the documents cited therein, is respectfully requested. Issuance of an Examiner-initialed form PTO-1449 in connection with such Information Disclosure Statement is also requested.

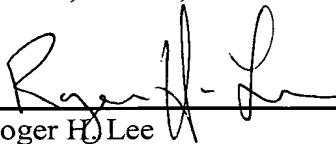
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 09/800,778
Attorney's Docket No. 003510-082

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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